

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



November 28, 2011

The Honorable Rick Jones
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Jones and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

While I support the concept and the motivation behind Senate Bill 59 (S-2), the current language is unworkable. SB 59 (S-2) in its current form presents more problems than solutions. You are seeking to make the process more efficient and timely, but it will in fact punish the one county that does just that and issues more Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPL) than any other in the state.

In Oakland County, we take great pride in an efficient and responsive CPL application process. I have spent significant resources and personnel time on this and actually hired additional staff to make the process as convenient and speedy as possible. As a result, our residents do not have an extensive wait even though we ensure all necessary information is gathered and a comprehensive background check is conducted. All of this is done despite the fact that the current \$15.00 fee the Sheriff's Office collects does not even begin to cover the cost of resources and personnel. They are residents and taxpayers and as such, we go out of our way to make the process efficient for them. Taking on out-county resident applications as suggested in SB 59 (S-2) would fly in the face of my local efforts and create a backlog for in-county residents as well as create an unfunded mandated. The suggested \$10.00 additional fee for the Sheriff's Office would not even begin to cover the workload. My CFO believes our actual cost is above \$60 per CPL to do all the paperwork, take the fingerprints and then have a sworn deputy do the background and computer checks that are required.

With over 40,000 CPL applications in Oakland County already, we cannot be asked to donate personnel, time and resources for out-county resident CPL applications. Again, though I appreciate what the sponsor of the bill is trying to accomplish, I cannot support SB 59 (S-2) in its current form. It not only will slow the successful process in place for my residents, but it will require them to subsidize the out-county applicants which is a clear Headlee violation.

Should actual cost recovery for a county processing out of county applications be included or if the state pays for the processing, I would be totally supportive.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Bouchard".

Michael J. Bouchard
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF